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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 17 | Humidity 61% Fog/mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later Sensex 76,404 | Nifty 23,155 | Gold 81,230 | Silver 96,500 | Dollar 86.32 | Euro 89.91 | GBP 106.70

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DROP A TINT

138 cases in a day: Cops intensify crackdown on tinted glass violations in city to promote safety, compliance with law

CITY / PAGE 6

SHARE THE LOVE

BBMP to hire agencies to raise awareness about animal rights in schools in initiative that will start in February

Drivers reluctant to scrap old autos and replace them with electric vehicles as they are not convinced govt will come through on its promise of subsidy

SCRAP PLAN? SCRATCH THAT

Demand: Make process seamless, address challenges elderly drivers face

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In a significant move to tackle air pollution in the city, the Regional Transport Office (RTO) has been contemplating to deny fitness certificates (FC) to auto-rickshaws older than 15 years, effectively banning them from city roads. This decision follows a two-year-long attempt by the RTO to replace outdated autos with electric vehicles (EVs) by offering a subsidy of ₹60,000 to owners of these old vehicles.

The initiative was aimed at encouraging auto drivers to transition to eco-friendly alternatives and reduce vehicular emissions in the city. However, the plan has met resistance from auto unions and drivers, who have shown little interest in making the shift. Despite the financial support provided by the state government, not a single auto driver has come forward to avail of the scheme since its announcement.

About the decision, M Manjunath, president of the Adarsha Auto and Taxi Drivers' Union told BM that the initiative was launched to encourage auto drivers to scrap their old vehicles to reduce pollution in the city but, a lack of proper communication between the transport

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"Many of us depend on autos for our livelihood, paying school fees for our children, and running households. At this age, if I take on a loan, who will help me repay it?** —Auto driver

Fill in the funds gap

Central entity tells NGT state pollution board has not given any info on funds, environmental compensation

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In a report submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has informed that the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has failed to furnish information regarding environmental funds collected by the Board so far.

KSPCB has also failed to provide details such as the total Environmental Compensation (EC) fund utilised and the total unspent amount despite multiple reminders by the central pollution watchdog.

The information on EC fund was sought by CPCB based on NGT's order to examine the guidelines for utilisation of the EC amount and to ascertain if as per the said guidelines, the EC imposed for any project or any area is to be utilised for remediation or improvement in that area or project. NGT had directed CPCB to provide the information about the EC collected and lying deposited with the different State Pollution Control Boards in the country.

"CPCB circulated the NGT order

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Classical dance festival

The 20th edition of the 'Drishti National Dance Festival 2025,' celebrating Indian classical dance forms, will feature special Bharatanatyam, Odissi, & Yakshagana performances by renowned ensembles. Renowned Yakshagana artist Keremane Shivananda Hegde will be bestowed the 'Drishti Puraskar' during the fest. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval When: January 25, 6 pm**

02 Fusion jazz concert

An evening of fusion jazz with Advaita Crescendo Quartet, an international ensemble blending the intricate rhythms of Indian classical music with the fluid improvisations of European jazz. **Where: Indian Music Experience Museum, JP Nagar; When: January 26, 6:30 pm to 8 pm**

03 Without words

'It is You,' by Our Theatre Collective is a 60-minute performance that challenges traditional storytelling through its absence of spoken dialogue. It explores the embodied tensions and themes of collective responsibility, identity, and the future of our planet. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar When: January 31 & February 1**

04 Paint and heal

Anybody Can Make Art is a workshop designed to help you connect with your inner artist. Explore your creativity, express your emotions, and enjoy the therapeutic benefits of artistic expression. All art supplies will be provided. **Where: BLR Brewing Co, HSR Layout; When: January 26, 11 am**

05 Fiesta of flavours

Taco & Sangria Festival: A month-long celebration of exciting and bold flavours paired with a range of crafted sangrias. Explore a menu inspired by the best of Mexican and Spanish traditions, brought to life with Toast & Tonic's signature touch. **Where: Toast & Tonic, Richmond Road When: Until February 12**

Land acquisition for Namma Metro Phase 3 is officially on

BMRCL initiates land acquisition process for its crucial Phase 3 project having 2 corridors, multiple interchange stations; 26,811 sqm of land is acquired already

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An aerial view of the Namma Metro train passing on a flyover in Bengaluru

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has commenced the land acquisition process required for the construction of Namma Metro Phase 3. Initially, 26,811 square meters of land were acquired for the stretch from JP Nagar Phase 4 to Mysuru Road Metro Station.

Sources said that the project includes multiple interchange stations, such as Peenya and JP Nagar stations on the Green Line, Mysuru Road Station on the Purple Line, and Sumanahalli Station on the Hosahalli-Kadabagere route. JP Nagar Phase 4 will connect the Pink Line at Bannerghatta Road, while Hebbal will serve as an interchange for the Blue Line (airport route) and Red Line (Hebbal-Sarjapur route). Phase 3 consists of two corridors: Corridor 1, spanning 32.15 km from JP Nagar Phase 4 to Kempapura, and Corridor 2, covering 12.5 km from Hosahalli to Kadabagere. For Corridor 1 alone, approximately 1,29,743 square meters of land have been identified, involving 777 private properties. The estimated cost for this land acquisition is Rs 1,900 crore.

According to BMRCL officials, Phase 3 will feature a double-decker viaduct, as outlined in the Detailed Project Report (DPR). Any additional land required will be acquired in consultation with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The viaduct will be constructed without affecting existing roads, flyovers, or underpasses. "Phase 3's estimated project cost is Rs 15,611 crore, with Rs 7,577 crore sourced from loans and Rs 450 crore from revenue streams such as advertising and station naming rights. The network will require 252 coaches, with an estimated daily ridership of 7.28 lakh passengers by 2028," said an official.

Phase 3 will feature a double-decker viaduct. It will be constructed without affecting existing infrastructure

Geotechnical investigations underway

A private company has begun geotechnical investigations on Magadi Road for Phase 3. The first phase covers soil testing from Mysuru Road Station to Kanteerava Studio Station, while the second phase spans from Hosahalli Station to Kadabagere Depot. Additional studies will be conducted for stretches between Kanteerava Studio Station and Kempapura Station, as well as JP Nagar Phase 4 to Mysuru Road Station. The total cost of these investigations is approximately Rs 5.49 crore, with completion expected in five months.

Land acquisition details

The land acquisition process for the Namma Metro stretch from JP Nagar Phase 4 to Mysuru Road Metro Station spans across several key areas. An official said, "The identified land includes 1,830.87 square meters in Nainappashetti Palya, 1,499.32 sqm in Bilekahalli, 5,187.31 sqm in Sarakki, and 4,556.46 sqm in Jaraganahalli. Additional parcels of land include 82.38 sqm in Kadirenahalli, 1,007.92 sqm in Karisandra, 1,815.74 sqm in Katriguppe, 3,670.09 sqm in Hosakerehalli, 1,872.31 sqm in Pantharapalya, and 5,289.03 sqm in Nayandahalli."

Turning recycled plastic bottles into symbol of national pride

In an initiative combining patriotism and sustainability, a Bengaluru-based school is preparing to unfurl a unique national flag made entirely from recycled plastic bottles on Republic Day.

Led by the school principal Usha Iyer, the team connected with a Kanpur-based recycling company that specialises in transforming plastic waste into textiles. They were informed that 22,800 bottles would be required to create two flags. The team collected over 35,000 bottles. The recycled flag is made from polyester derived entirely from PET bottles. "This initiative is not just about creating a flag; it's about fostering environmental consciousness and demonstrating how waste can be repurposed into something meaningful," said Iyer. The collection drive has been ongoing for months, with active participation from parents, children, local shops, and corporate partners. The team received enthusiastic support from all quarters. The idea for this initiative came from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, wherein flags made from recycled PET bottles were showcased.

Alongside the flag-making initiative, a "Go Green" campaign is set to take place on

Flag made from recycled plastic bottles

Republic Day. The campaign will include a walk and run to encourage sustainable modes of transport. Participants, including children, will be carrying placards advocating against single-use plastics and promoting the planting of bamboo trees to enhance air quality in the city. Additionally, plans are underway to use the collected PET bottles for creating eco-friendly t-shirts, further promoting the concept of recycling and waste management.

— Iffath Fathima

Lakkundi tableau is all set to shine at Republic Day parade

Karnataka's tableau titled 'Lakkundi: The Cradle of Stone Craft' is all set to be on display at the Republic Day parade to be held in New Delhi on January 26. The Department of Information and Public Relations, which represents Karnataka at the parade every year, has consistently captured the nation's attention with unique and impactful tableaux. This year's display reflects Karnataka's rich heritage, cultural diversity, and harmony, emphasising peace and coexistence.

Hemanth M Nimbalkar, Commissioner of the Department said, "Lakkundi stands as a symbol of Karnataka's rich cultural legacy and religious harmony, housing Shaivite, Jain, and Vaishnavite temples. This year's tableau showcases the intricate artistry of these ancient temples, bringing them to life on the grand stage of the Republic Day Parade. The journey to this achievement was no small feat. Karnataka had proposed four themes for this year's tableau and Lakkundi was finalised."

Key inputs from experts, designers, and artists ensured that the tableau was crafted with precision and artistry.

Despite initial setbacks like fog, rain, and logistical issues in Delhi, the team successfully completed the tableau in record time.

The tableau's forefront showcases the Brahma Jinalaya, the oldest Jain temple dedicated to Lord Mahavira, followed by its intricately designed open-pillared mandapa. The main section highlights the grand Kashivishveshwara and Nanneshwara temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.

— BMB

Drive responsibly: 138 tinted glass violations in just 1 day

Cops intensify crackdown on tinted glass violations in Bengaluru to promote road safety, ensure compliance with law

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'A minimum visibility level of 70% for the front and rear windshields & 50% for sides is mandated by law'

With a special drive across the city on Wednesday, Bengaluru Traffic Police have intensified their efforts to enforce the ban on tinted glasses in vehicles. A total of 138 cases were registered against offenders as part of this drive. The crackdown aims to ensure compliance with the Motor Vehicles Act and promote road safety by addressing the risks posed by tinted glasses.

Tinted glasses in vehicles are prohibited under the Motor Vehicles Act due to the potential hazards they pose. According to the law, vehicle windows must maintain a minimum visibility level of 70% for the front and rear windshields and 50% for side windows. These regulations are in place to ensure that drivers have clear visibility, especially during low-light conditions, and to enable law enforcement officers to inspect vehicles effectively.

The city traffic police further emphasised the importance of compliance, urging vehicle owners to remove tinted glasses immediately. "Tinted glasses are not just a legal violation; they are a serious safety hazard. They compromise visibility, particularly in low-light conditions, and can lead to fatal accidents," a traffic official stated. The Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, MN Anucheth confirmed that more drives are underway against such offenders.

Reasoning behind this ban

Tinted glasses significantly reduce visibility for drivers, particularly at night or during adverse weather conditions. This impairment can delay reaction times, making it difficult to spot pedestrians, cyclists, or other vehicles, thereby increasing the likelihood of accidents. Reduced visibility also poses a serious threat to other road users, as drivers may fail to notice traffic signals, road signs, or unexpected obstacles.

Such glasses also hinder external visibility, making it challenging for law enforcement to monitor the activities inside vehicles. This can end up in providing a cover for illegal activities, such as transporting contraband or concealing criminal behaviour, and complicates investigations during emergencies. Additionally, tinted glasses reduce the effectiveness of external visual communication, such as eye contact between drivers and pedestrians, which is often crucial in navigating traffic safely.

Legal implications

The Supreme Court of India, in a landmark ruling in 2012, upheld the ban on tinted glasses, citing safety concerns and the need for transparency. Despite this, many vehicle owners continue to use tinted films in violation of the law. Those found guilty of using tinted glasses are liable to face penalties, and repeated offenders may face stricter legal action.

Larger mission

This crackdown is part of the traffic department's larger effort to enhance road safety and minimise the risk of accidents in the city. Bengaluru, with its bustling streets and heavy traffic, requires strict adherence to safety regulations to protect all road users. By targeting violations such as the use of tinted glasses, the traffic police aim to create a culture of compliance and accountability. Officials have encouraged citizens to view these measures as essential steps to ensure their own safety and that of others. Vehicle owners who have installed tinted films are advised to have them removed at the earliest to avoid fines and penalties.

> **"Tinted glasses are not just a legal violation; they are serious safety hazard. They compromise visibility, & can lead to fatal accidents** – Traffic official

Railways to use AI to curb ticket touting

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Despite several steps, the menace of ticket touting and black marketing continues to challenge the Indian Railways, particularly during peak travel seasons. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has now decided to use advanced AI and machine learning to catch touts.

A senior RPF official said, "We will start using the behavioural pattern analysis wherein AI (artificial intelligence) systems will scrutinise booking behaviours to identify anomalies indicative of touting activities. This will help us in real-time fraud detection and enable machine learning algorithms to identify and halt suspicious transactions instantly. Dynamic IP (internet protocol) monitoring will block multiple bookings originating from the same IP address or through VPNs (virtual private networks)."

Biometric verification for ticketing

Furthermore, to enhance passenger verification, the railways will introduce biometric systems. "Ticket bookings will be linked to biometric data for authentication during inspections. Fingerprint Scanning: Biometric verification at booking counters will ensure transaction authenticity. On the other hand, cloud-based systems will allow real-time processing of ticketing data, while predictive analytics will use historical data to implement preventive measures on vulnerable routes and travel seasons," an official added.

File photo of ticketing kiosks at Kengeri Railway Station

Anti-touting measures

South Western Railway (SWR) officials stressed the gravity of the touting issue, which compromises fair access to tickets and erodes public trust. The RPF's cyber cells are actively analysing booking patterns, conducting targeted operations at ticket counters and cybercafes, and confiscating unauthorised tickets.

An official said, "Currently, the RPF has equipped its cyber cells with state-of-the-art software to dismantle touting networks. Advanced surveillance tools, including CCTV and real-time monitoring of online booking platforms, have bolstered the RPF's capacity to curb touting. Collaboration with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has led to the deactivation of suspicious accounts. Offenders will face strict penalties under the Railways Act, including imprisonment, as recent judicial rulings classify ticket touting as a social crime."

IN BRIEF

Scooterist killed after losing vehicle's control

A scooterist died after losing control over his scooter in the late hours of Tuesday near the Nayandahalli railway underpass on Ring Road. The deceased is identified as 34-year-old Methu Vila, a resident of Shiva Shakti Nagar, Chunchaghatta Main Road.

The incident took place at approximately 10:30 pm when Vila, riding from Nagarabhavi towards Nayandahalli, lost control of his vehicle near the underpass. According to eyewitnesses, high speed and careless manoeuvring led to this accident. Vila suffered severe head injuries and injuries to other parts of his body. Nearby pedestrians rushed to his aid and transported him to a hospital for treatment. Unfortunately, the victim succumbed to his injuries at 12:15 am on Wednesday. Preliminary investigations suggested that the rider's negligence and possible loss of balance led to the accident. **BMB**

Man jumps from moving train, dies

An unknown man around 40 years old died after jumping from a moving train on the Lakshmanpuri Railway Bridge on Wednesday. The incident occurred in the early hours of the The deceased was rushed to a nearby hospital for medical attention but was declared dead due to severe spinal injuries.

It's reported that the man, believed to be in an intoxicated state, leaped from a height of 25 to 30 feet. He landed on the road below. Seshadripuram police arrived at the scene to assist the man and secure the area. However, the man shortly died due to the impact of the fall. His identity and address are yet to be determined. Police officials suspect alcohol consumption may have influenced the man's actions. Investigations are ongoing. **BMB**

Rowdy-sheeter arrested for friend's murder

A 35-year-old rowdy sheeter was arrested on Wednesday for killing his friend over a financial row. The accused, identified as Brijesh, was running a fake gold business with his friend, identified as Gunashekhar (the victim). The victim would help Brijesh by selling gold to various gold shops. Recently, some of the valuables sold by the victim were found to be fake in one of the audits conducted by a gold shop (which Gunashekhar used to deal with). After which, the victim approached Brijesh to collect the money. Brijesh is said to have shot the victim dead on January 10 in his flat. He then reportedly set his dead body on fire at a forest in Tamil Nadu. A murder case was filed after passersby alerted the local police. The accused is currently under police custody. Further investigations are underway. **BMB**

Kithaganur demands clean water, eyes Cauvery supply

Residents of Sai Panchamukhi Layout are grappling with contaminated borewell water, leading to high costs for purchasing filters and softeners

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Residents of Sai Panchamukhi Layout and surrounding areas have been facing a lot of problems due to the contaminated water they get from borewells. There are around 60 families that own borewells individually as there was no Cauvery water supply. With borewell water being muddy and hard, residents are forced to spend extra on maintaining water filters and purchasing water softener salt.

"I have to spend Rs 750 to buy 10 kgs of water softener salt per month. All of us own borewells but the water quality is not good. I bought a house at this layout last March and dug up a borewell but I am not happy with the quality of water. I do not know how to fix this problem," said Lakshmi Narayana, a resident.

Niranjan Kumar, a resident of Sai Panchamukhi Layout, said that most of the residents are significantly struggling for clean water. "We have to spend money to clean the sump whenever we get muddy water from the borewell. We have to buy drinking water as we can't afford to drink the borewell water. It is not viable for us to buy water from a private water supplier for washing clothes," said Niranjan Kumar.

Hard and muddy borewell water at Sai Panchamukhi Layout

The residents urge Kithaganur Panchayat to fix the water problem by supplying water. They want the panchayat authorities to dig up borewells at suitable locations for drinking water. "The water quality is deteriorating day by day due to pollution. If the water bodies around Kithaganur are free from pollution, the groundwater table improves and residents can get clean water from borewells. The problem is the local body does not have funds to keep lakes clean. The state government has assured to supply Cauvery water to 110 villages that were included in the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike). It is unclear when the residents of layouts around Kithaganur will receive Cauvery water," a resident said.

Meanwhile, VP Krishna, Founder of KR Puram Constituency Association Welfare Federation, said that the issue of hard and muddy water was discussed with the Kithaganur Panchayat Executive Officer recently. "We have requested the Executive Officer to extend the supply of Cauvery water to all the houses in Kithaganur Panchayat limits. We will send the water sample to the laboratory for testing. We have also requested the Kithaganur Panchayat Executive Officer and members to allocate funds for the construction of a sewage treatment plant (STP) to treat sewage water thus improving groundwater quality," said VP Krishna.

Parking chaos hits Frazer Town as redevelopment takes off

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Frazer Town, known for its bustling streets and rich heritage, is set to undergo a much-needed transformation. Roads like Mosque Road, Netaji Road, MM Road, and Tannery Road, which have been in poor condition for years, are now being redeveloped under a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) initiative. The project includes white-topping the roads, modernising footpaths, and upgrading old pipelines and underground utilities.

Social activist Yasir Mohammed explained, "White-topping is coming up on MM Road, Mosque Road, Netaji Road, and Tannery Road. The project involves new sanitary lines, water pipelines, underground telecom lines, and relaying roads with concrete, along with modern footpaths. This was long overdue. MLA Srinivas has sanctioned the project, and the contractor has assured that one stretch of Mosque Road will be completed by March first week, while the rest will be done by June first week."

To facilitate smooth progress, one section of Mosque Road has been closed to traffic. However, residents and commuters are facing challenges due to parking chaos. Vehicles parked haphazardly in front of popular restaurants have worsened congestion, making it difficult for daily commuters to pass through. "It's hard to navigate these roads now. With no proper parking, the traffic jams have become unbearable. During peak hours, it's a nightmare. BBMP should address parking issues along with the roadwork," added Mohammed.

The development project also raises concerns about preserving the area's greenery. Frazer Town Resident Welfare Association member Md Farooq emphasised the need to protect the heritage trees lining Mosque Road. "We have more than 50 old trees here. When white-topping is done, concrete often covers the roots, causing the trees to die. We urge the BBMP forest department to conduct a survey and ensure the trees are protected," said Farooq.

While the roadwork promises improved infrastructure, residents are preparing for disruptions, especially with Ramadan approaching. The area becomes a hub of activity during the holy month, with heavy footfall near restaurants and shops. "With the ongoing construction and Ramadan crowds, the situation might become chaotic. It is best if the majority of the work is completed before the start of Ramadan," said a shopkeeper on Mosque Road.

Despite the challenges, residents are optimistic about the project's outcome. "It's inconvenient now, but the new roads and footpaths will be worth the wait," said Farooq. The project is expected to be completed within eight months, promising a smoother and safer commute for everyone.

ವೈಕುಂಠ ಸಮಾರಾಧನೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ನಾರಾಯಣ ರೆಡ್ಡಿಯವರು

ಇವರು ದಿನಾಂಕ 13.01.2025ನೇ ಸೋಮವಾರ ದೈವಾಧೀನರಾದರೆಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಲು ವಿಷಾದಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆ. ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧವಾಗಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಕ್ರಿಯಾದಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 23.01.2025ನೇ ಗುರುವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 9.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಪುಣ್ಯಾಹ ಮತ್ತು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ವೈಕುಂಠ ಸಮಾರಾಧನೆಯನ್ನು ಮೃತರ ಸ್ವಗೃಹದಲ್ಲಿ ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ತಾವುಗಳು ಸಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗಮಿಸಿ ಮೃತರ ಆತ್ಮಕ್ಕೆ ಶಾಂತಿ ಕೋರಬೇಕಾಗಿ ವಿನಂತಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇವೆ.

ಇಂತಿ ದುಃಖತಪ್ತರು:
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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Concrete chaos
Govindapura Main Road

Unnecessary concrete layers on Govindapura Main Road near AMC Grand Function Hall are causing inconvenience to motorists.

Vendor blockade
Jayanagar

Street vendors near Sanjay Gandhi Trauma Hospital in NIMHANS, Jayanagar, cause heavy traffic congestion, obstructing ambulances and disrupting hospital access.

Garbage hazard
TC Palya

Garbage pileup outside Purplewood Apartment, Anandapura, TC Palya poses health risks. Residents urge authorities for immediate action.

Power, water snapped at illegal building

Palike orders Bescom, BWSSB to disconnect utilities at unauthorised construction in Judicial Layout; this move follows prolonged enforcement delays

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BBMP's recent decision has sparked mixed reactions

> **I believe that all site owners have to follow building byelaws while constructing buildings. No one is immune when it comes to following byelaws**–D Krishnappa, retired distict judge

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has taken action against illegal buildings allegedly constructed at the Judicial Layout in Yelahanka Zone. The Assistant Executive Engineer has issued notices to the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) to disconnect electricity and to the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to disconnect the water supply to the illegally constructed building at the Judicial Layout.

The BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer of Yelahanka Sub-Division issued a notice on November 22, 2022, to N Venkatachala, Site No 1381, 9th Main Road, Judicial Layout, asking him to provide the building plan, BBMP permission letter, property tax receipt, sale deed, and commencement certificate within three days of receiving the notice. However, the BBMP authorities have conveniently forgotten about the notice issued to N Venkatachala till January 18, 2025. The BBMP authorities failed to take action against the violation of building byelaws during the last 25 months.

Bangalore Mirror published a story titled, "Site allotted to former Lokayukta in eye of storm" on December 23, 2022, narrating how the BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer of Yelahanka Sub-Division issued a notice to N Venkatachala. According to the BBMP notice, the property was neither divided nor transferred among Venkatachala's family members. Venkatachala passed away on October 30, 2019.

The BBMP's latest decision has invited mixed reactions from residents of Judicial Layout.

"I am at a loss to understand the logic behind delaying issuing notices to the Bescom and the BWSSB to disconnect electricity and water. I think that the BBMP authorities show over-enthusiasm to demolish buildings constructed by middle class and poor people but hesitate to act tough against prominent personalities who construct buildings illegally," said a resident pleading anonymity.

D Krishnappa, a retired district judge and the president of Retired Judges & Officers' Association, Judicial Layout, has appreciated the BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer for writing to the Bescom and the BWSSB authorities to disconnect electricity and water to the building constructed illegally on the site owned by late N Venkatachala. "I believe that all the site owners have to follow building byelaws while constructing buildings. No one is immune or an exception when it comes to following the building byelaws," said D Krishnappa.

Expressing a similar opinion, N Krishnappa, a retired Superintendent of Police and president of the Judicial Layout Residents' Forum said that advocates or retired judges who own the sites and want to construct buildings should be role models for others. "There are some people who got allotted residential sites at Judicial Layout illegally. I welcome the notices issued by the BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer," said N Krishnappa.

Prof Pandu Kumar, President of Senior Citizens' Welfare Forum, Judicial Layout, said, "I want all the site owners to follow building byelaws while constructing buildings. I welcome the BBMP issuing notices to the Bescom and the BWSSB to disconnect electricity and water to the illegally constructed building."

However, NV Vedachala, the son of late Justice N Venkatachala was not available for comment.

Chaos erupts over ration card updates

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The Bangalore One Centre in Rajajinagar witnessed massive crowds for the last few days as thousands of residents rushed to update their ration cards. The confusion stemmed from false rumours suggesting it was the last day for corrections, leading to overcrowding and chaos.

Many citizens believed that corrections could only be made at Bangalore One Centre, forcing them to flock to the facility. Staff struggled to manage the situation as long queues formed in the early mornings. Tempers flared when people were informed that updates could not be processed due to server issues, sparking anger among the crowd.

Ration card holders rush for corrections at Bangalore One Centre

Miscommunication and clarifications

Sources said that despite the misinformation, the Department of Food and Civil Supplies had previously announced that ration card corrections would be allowed until December 2024. Officials reiterated that the process would continue uninterrupted across Bangalore One, Karnataka One, and Grama One Centres, and citizens could make updates until the end of the month. Chandrakant, an official, assured the public that there was no need to panic and stressed that corrections could be done even in the last week of the month. While the deadline for updates has been extended to January 31, uncertainty looms over whether it will be further extended in February, adding to public confusion. Sanjay Kumar, a resident of Rajajinagar said, "Amid the lack of clarity, many residents flocked to Bangalore One Centres, hoping to resolve their issues. The sudden surge in visitors highlighted the need for better communication from the authorities to prevent such situations in the future."

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Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Administrative Bldg, Chembur, Mumbai - 400 074.
CIN-L24110MH1978GOI020185
Advt. No. 15112024
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Toddler's battle with DMD: Hope rests on gene therapy

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

ELEVIDYS gene therapy brings hope for DMD

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a rare and severe genetic disorder that causes progressive muscle weakness, was diagnosed in 1.10-year-old Angad Khurana in November 2024. The condition has profoundly impacted the Khurana family, as it gradually affects a child's ability to move, breathe, and live independently.

The diagnosis was shattering for Swapnil Khurana, Angad's father, an Independent consultant by profession and resident of Electronic City Phase 2, and his family. He said, "Angad often asks in his toddler language, 'Why can't I stand and walk, Mumma? Why do I fall so much? Other kids are playing; why can't I join them?' It breaks our hearts."

According to Dr Ann Agnes Mathew, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, DMD is life-threatening and progressively worsens over time. "The disease leads to muscle weakness, heart disease, and eventually failure, drastically reducing life expectancy," she explained.

While DMD is currently incurable, hope lies in emerging treatments like ELEVIDYS (Delandistrogene Moxeparvovec Rokl), a gene therapy designed to help the muscles produce dystrophin. However, this treatment is neither manufactured in India nor affordable for most families. The cost? A staggering 26 crore (approximately 3.2 million USD), excluding taxes.

Dr. Ann emphasised the urgency of treatment. "The medicine works better if given earlier. Angad is an early patient, and getting this therapy in time could make a significant difference. Without it, the average life expectancy for DMD patients in India is just 15 years. In countries like England and France, it's about 39 to 42 years."

She added, "DMD is a genetic disease linked to the X chromosome. Since women have two X chromosomes, they are usually unaffected, but boys, who have only one, are at risk. Unfortunately, many parents don't notice the symptoms early, mistaking delayed walking or speech for laziness. By the time they seek help, it's often too late. Angad is lucky to have been diagnosed early."

Overwhelming battle

Despite the hope that ELEVIDYS offers, the cost is insurmountable for Swapnil and his family. "We are reaching out to kind-hearted individuals to help us save our son. Every contribution, no matter how small, brings us closer to our goal," said Swapnil. The family has even started a fundraiser in Milaap Foundation https://milaap.org/fundraisers/support-child-of-harmeet-kaur-khurana.

Angad's parents are appealing for support to raise 26 crores to import the 5 life-saving medications. Swapnil said, "This is our race against time. Every second counts. With your support, Angad has a fighting chance to live a fuller, happier life."

For Angad, the stakes couldn't be higher. The Khurana family's hope rests on the generosity of strangers to bridge the gap and give their son a chance at life. "As parents, we dream of our children taking their first steps and saying their first words. For us, every milestone feels like a race against time, knowing we might not see them all. The hardest part is knowing that the solution exists but is far out of our reach. We are desperate, but we will never stop fighting for Angad," added Swapnil.

F. No. BAN/LANDS/113/E-AUC/AF/I

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BBMP to bring animal rights education to schools

Civic agency will hire agencies to raise awareness about animal rights in schools; initiative, starting in February, aims to educate humane treatment

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

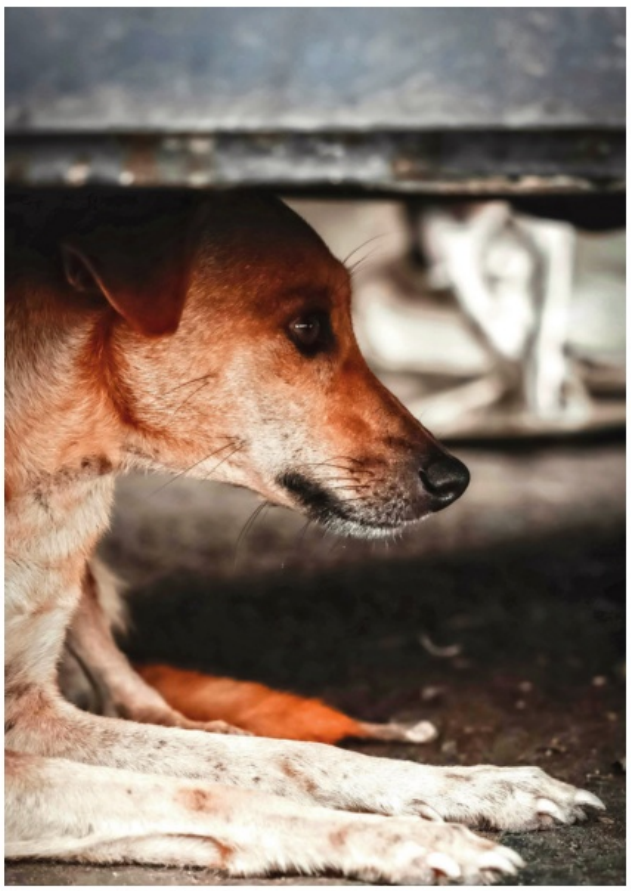
The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will soon recruit eight agencies, one in each zone, to spread awareness about animal welfare and rights in educational institutions across the city.

BBMP's Animal Husbandry Department says the idea is to foster a compassionate society for animals.

"We are reaching out to malls, parks, markets, residential areas, etc with various activities to spread awareness around animal welfare and rights. However, we have not been able to conduct awareness sessions in schools and colleges. There are thousands of educational institutions across the city. Thus we will be bringing in multiple agencies to help us with the process," said Suralkar Vikas Kishore, Special Commissioner of BBMP's Health and Animal Husbandry Department.

The initiative will start in February, and BBMP will soon be calling for expressions of interest in all eight zones to move it forward.

"There are nearly 500 schools and colleges in each zone. A single agency can't carry out awareness programs in all eight zones. We will select one agency for each zone and work with them to educate children about animal rights and welfare," added Kishore.



Each school will allot 15–20 minutes per class for awareness sessions

> **"We want to remove irrational fear of animals from their minds while educating them on how to keep their distance. They should be told if they get into animals' space, they are bound to react violently** –Official, Animal Husbandry dept

Once agencies are selected, the zonal assistant directors of the Animal Husbandry department will approach schools and colleges in their zones and organise awareness sessions for children. The agencies will be given audience authorisation forms, whereby every educational institution will allot time of 15 to 20 minutes for every class of students for the sessions.

"These sessions will be around educating children about animal behaviour, respect for animals, and how to behave around them. We want to remove irrational fear of animals from their minds while educating them on how to keep their distance. They should be told that if they get into animals' space or threaten their young ones, animals are bound to react violently," said an official from the Animal Husbandry Department.

Notably, in July last year, BBMP formulated a guideline to manage community animals living on campuses. The civic agency had announced that educational institutions in the city will have to implement the Animal Birth Control Rule, 2023, to avoid any form of cruelty to animals or birds.

Under the guidelines, institutions were asked to take the lead in conducting activities such as vaccination and neutering of stray dogs and cats living inside the campuses. School and college authorities were also instructed to not relocate community animals. Institutions were also asked to arrange food and clean drinking water for community animals, apart from helping students and staff that are feeding the animals with feeding spots inside the campuses and feeding timings. Moreover, security agencies were to be trained to handle stray dogs and cats safely as per the law.

Forgery: Case against deed writer stays

The Karnataka High Court has declined to nullify a criminal case against a licensed deed writer who stands accused of drafting a land sale agreement based on an allegedly counterfeit general power attorney (GPA). Justice M Nagaprasanna, whilst dismissing Shekar's petition, stated that the proceedings cannot be quashed merely due to his profession as a deed writer, as there is prima facie evidence of forgery, using forged documents as genuine, and criminal breach of trust.

Venkat Ranjith Pattibandla, who holds the GPA of Yalamanchali Jithin Kumar (his father-in-law), lodged a complaint regarding property administration. The complaint alleged that whilst the property was acquired in 2019, on August 8, 2024, it was discovered that YM Jithin Kumar had entered into a sale agreement with two others for Rs 1.15 crores. A criminal case was registered citing impersonation and forged document execution under sections 409, 419, 465, 468 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code. Shekhar and the Sub-Registrar of Doddaballapura were named as accused No 4 and No 5 respectively.

The accused deed writer contended that he had verified and written the deed within his prescribed duties under the Karnataka Registration (Deed Writers' Licence) Rules, 1979.

The complainant contested that the deed writer's responsibilities extend beyond mere transcription, arguing that statutory duties were neglected, thereby establishing prima facie evidence for the charged offences.

The bench observed clear discrepancies in the photographic identification, noting that whilst the Aadhar card and GPA photos matched, the sale agreement photograph differed significantly.

The court emphasised that the deed writer should have scrutinised the presented documents as per statutory requirements.

Citing Rule 2(i), the court clarified that a deed writer's responsibilities encompass conveyancing, title investigation, and draft preparation, refuting claims of limited duty.

The court dismissed the argument regarding document-based scribing, highlighting inconsistencies in the name formats between the RTC and sale agreement, and questioning the deed's legitimacy given the existing power of attorney.

The court concluded that despite apparent forgery and impersonation by other accused parties, the deed writer had specific duties under the Rules, also rejecting his claim of good faith reliance on an advocate's provision of documents.

In protest

Members of Dalit Hakkugala Samiti stage a protest over various demands, at Freedom Park on Wednesday

Family accused of unleashing loan torture

Weekly interest payments at exorbitant 45%; repeated threats; manipulation; assault and much more

A harrowing tale of financial exploitation and harassment has emerged in Chandra Layout when a resident lodged a complaint against a family for alleged illegal loan practices, threats, and abuse.

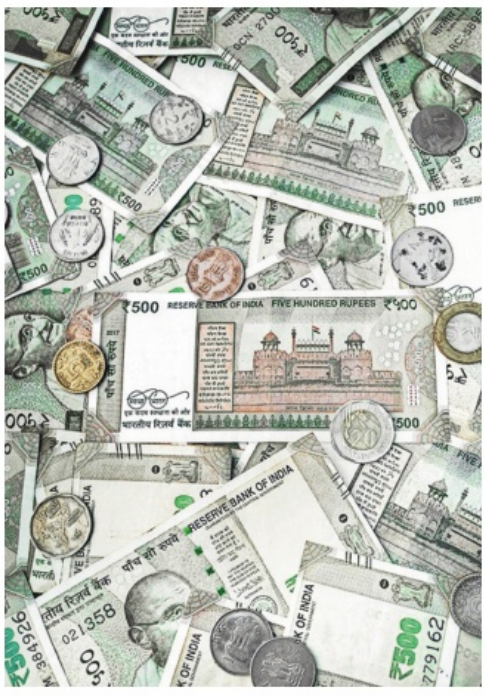
According to the complainant, the ordeal began in 2022 when she borrowed 45,000 from Mumraz Khanam, a resident of Kamar Nagar, near Siddaganga College. Despite regularly paying interest, the complainant alleges that Khanam began demanding weekly interest payments at an exorbitant rate of 45%.

Over time, the complainant claims to have repaid 3,24,000 in interest, along with an additional 2,00,000 obtained from the sale of her house. She also stated that she provided two vouchers to Khanam as proof of repayment.

The complaint details repeated threats and harassment by Khanam, her daughter Seema, and their family. The accused allegedly used political and financial clout to coerce the complainant into paying more money. They are also accused of confiscating valuables and property from the complainant and other financially vulnerable individuals under the guise of collecting meter interest.

As per the complaint lodged at Chandra Layout police station, Tahir worked as a domestic helper at the accused's residence for three years without receiving any payment. When she tried to halt the payments and reclaim her losses, the accused allegedly subjected her to physical assault and verbal abuse. The situation intensified on December 15, when the complainant claimed that the accused forcibly entered her home around 7:30 pm, assaulted her, hurled verbal abuses, and issued life threats.

Family allegedly confiscated valuables and property from the complainant and other financially vulnerable individuals claiming that they were collecting 'meter interest'



Complainant claims she paid Rs 3,34,000 in interest; Rs 2,00,000 after selling her house

The complainant further stated that the accused had manipulated her family dynamics, allegedly forcing her daughters into marriages with individuals involved in illegal activities, leading to their abandonment. The accused family is also alleged to have used their influence and connections with politicians and rowdies to evade accountability.

The complainant has urged authorities to take action to recover her losses and ensure her safety from further threats. Police officials are investigating the case.

Sanjana CS

Six-planet alignment to be rare treat for skywatchers

Astronomy enthusiasts are in for a celestial delight as six planets align in the night sky, creating a rare visual phenomenon. Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars can be easily spotted with the naked eye, while viewing Neptune and Uranus will require a powerful telescope. Although planetary alignments are not unusual, the chance to see so many planets simultaneously is a rare occurrence.

According to experts, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars can be observed from terraces or open areas, with Mars rising around 9 pm. The planets will remain visible until January 25, between 6 pm and 8 pm. Individually, these planets can be seen throughout the month. Despite being millions of kilometres apart, the planets will appear to be in close proximity due to their alignment along the ecliptic plane.

NASA explains that Venus and Saturn will be visible in the southwest shortly after sunset, with Jupiter positioned overhead and Mars appearing in the east. Spotting Uranus and Neptune will require both a high-powered telescope and expertise. "Planets often appear along a line in the sky, so the alignment itself isn't extraordinary. However, the opportunity to view four or five bright planets together is a relatively rare occurrence," NASA noted. The last planetary parade was observed in June 2024, when Saturn, Mars, and Jupiter aligned alongside the Moon. By early February, Moon will join the current lineup and can be spotted alongside Jupiter and Saturn.

Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru has announced a special sky observation session on January 25 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entry is free, and additional details can be obtained by contacting 080-223797215 or 080-22266084.

Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium (file)

14 dead in 2 accidents in 2 districts

As many as fourteen people were killed and 24 sustained injuries in two separate road accidents occurred in Uttara Kannada and Raichur districts on Wednesday, police said.

In the Yellapura incident, a truck carrying 29 fruit sellers fell into a 50-metre-deep valley in the wee hours of Wednesday, police said.

The victims from Savanur in Haveri district, were heading towards the Yellapura fair to sell fruits. The accident occurred in a forested section, the Uttara Kannada Superintendent of Police M Narayana said. In the Raichur incident, at least four persons including three students were killed and nine others injured when the vehicle they were travelling in overturned due to a tyre burst on Wednesday, police said. **-PTI**

Blame game over Davos

The BJP on Wednesday said the infighting in the Congress party has left Karnataka unrepresented at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, R Ashoka, remarked, "While Chief Ministers from major states are in Davos, advocating for investments in their respective regions, neither Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah nor any of his cabinet ministers are showing interest in representing the state on this global platform."

In contrast, the Karnataka government is organising its 'Global Investors Meet' in Bengaluru from February 11 to 14. The event, seen as a flagship initiative of the Congress-led government, aims to attract global investment. A delegation led by Karnataka's Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil met Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy in New Delhi to invite participation in the upcoming event. **-BMB**

Rajyotsava plea in HC

The High Court on Wednesday directed both the State and Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) to submit their responses regarding a public interest litigation. The litigation seeks to prevent MES from observing or publicising black day during Kannada Rajyotsava (November 1) in Belagavi and other Kannada-speaking areas.

Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice MI Arun, forming the division bench, stated, "The reply affidavit of all the respondents shall be filed before the next date of hearing, stand over to February 18."

The petition, filed by Mallappa Chayappa Aksharad, requests authorities to stop MES from conducting public demonstrations, protests, rallies, or assemblies on November 1 (Kannada Rajyotsava) within Belagavi or anywhere in Karnataka. MES, an organisation advocating for Belagavi district's merger with Maharashtra, has been under scrutiny. **-BMB**

Drivers have not received any subsidy so far

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

department and auto unions has left many drivers feeling betrayed.

"Nearly 30 drivers scrapped their autos after trusting the promises made by the transport department. They submitted all the required documents and even obtained scrapping certificates. Yet, as of today, they have not received the promised subsidy or financial assistance. We are ready to wait, but nothing has been provided even after all this time. This incident happened before Covid, and those drivers now regret their decision," said Manjunath, adding that due to this experience, no auto drivers are willing to participate in the scrapping scheme.

15-year-old autos owned by elderly drivers

The auto drivers are unwilling to scrap their vehicles without clear assurances. "We don't know if the promised subsidy will actually be provided. Even if it is, we don't want to take on debt in this situation," a representative from the auto drivers' union stated.

A key issue raised is that many 15-year-old autos are owned by individuals above 55 years of age. For these older drivers, obtaining a loan for a new EV auto is nearly impossible due to civil issues and age-related concerns. One auto driver questioned, "Many of us depend on autos for our livelihood, paying school fees for our children, and running households. At this age, if I take on a loan, who will help me repay it?" an auto driver questioned.

Additionally, there is no provision for cancelling the Fitness Certificate (FC) of vehicles. Auto drivers argue that if the government wants them to replace their autos, they should ensure a seamless process, offering subsidies and financial support at the same time.

Provide loans with low interest

They suggested that the government should facilitate loans through boards such as the SC/ST Development Corporation and Minority Development Corporations, offering low-interest loans without age restrictions.

Alternatively, the government could provide new EV autos to replace the old ones directly. "We are willing to come forward if such measures are implemented, but we don't want any auto driver to be left helpless after scrapping their vehicle," they added.

The drivers also emphasised the lack of discussion around the challenges they face. "They only talk about scrapping autos but don't address the issues we face, what alternatives will be provided during the waiting period, how loans will be sanctioned for those above 55 years of age, and how we can survive in the meantime," they said.

If this new policy does come into effect, the city may finally witness a shift towards sustainable transportation. However, it remains to be seen whether the government can address the challenges faced by auto drivers in embracing electric mobility.

Reminders go unheeded

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to all the SPCBs and Pollution Control Committees along with a format for submitting the information on Environmental Compensation (EC) funds collected, utilised, unspent, details of activities in which the amount was utilized, details of concerned officials, etc." noted the report filed by CPCB.

The communications were sent to the Member Secretary, KSPCB on five occasions - October 28, 2024, November 20, 2024, November 29, 2024, December 09, 2024, and December 23, 2024. However, the information on EC funds is still awaited.

According to the guidelines for utilisation of EC funds developed by CPCB in April 2019, the fund can be used for 11 different activities.

It can be used for the development of infrastructure for air and water quality surveillance and monitoring for different areas and locations, remediation of contaminated sites and for that to develop infrastructure, procurement of equipment, hiring of experts for specific requirements for remediation of sites, etc., and for investigations and studies about environment and ecology.

EC fund can also be utilized for assessing the carrying capacity of ecologically and environmentally sensitive and critical areas, Capacity building of scientific and engineering personnel of Central Pollution Control Board and state pollution control boards to rejuvenate and protect the environment, payment of honorarium in compliance with judicial orders of the courts and tribunal, augmenting and strengthening of laboratory network for manpower and logistics, for taking up specialized studies on accidental spill areas, health impact assessment, recalcitrant pollutants, etc, and hiring of experts for research and development of green and clean technologies.

Total EC by SPCBs across India

As of September 30, 2024, the total EC fund collected by 29 state pollution control boards across the country is Rs707.28 crore. Out of this, Rs166.43 crore have been utilised, and Rs 544.43 crore is still available with SPCBs. The average EC fund utilisation by SPCBs/ PCCs is 20%. Bihar State Pollution Control Board has reported the highest utilization of EC funds (94%), followed by Chandigarh Pollution Control Board at 82%, and Punjab PCB at 72%. Thirteen SPCBs/PCCs have reported utilization of less than 10% of the EC funds collected.

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I, Sarala Nagpal, R/o, #4, 8th Cross, Central Excise Layout, Bhoopasandra, Sanjaynagar, RMV 2, Bangalore 560094 have changed my name to Sarla R Nagpal

I, Rani Chikkanniah Reddy R/o No.10/2, 8th cross, 1st main, Venkateshwara layout, SG palya, Bengaluru 560029 have changed my name to Rani Garvepalya Chinnaswamyreddy Affidavit Dt.22/01/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Javeed Pasha Kadaba Kallahali, S/o Mohamad Shameer, R/at K Kallahalli at Post, Kadaba Hobli, Gubbi Taluk, Tumkur Dist, Karnataka, have changed my name to JAVEED PASHA, vide affidavit dt: 18.01.2025 before notary Bharathi, Gubbi.

I, Surender Kumar s/o. Late R S Tanwar, r/o No.473, 2nd Floor, 9th Block, 10th Cross, BDA Park, Vinayaka Layout, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072 have changed my name to Surinder Kumar For all purposes

I Najmuddin S/O, Abdul Rasool Nalwala R/o No.12f, Bank Of Baroda Colony, 2nd Cross, Jp Nagar 7th Phase, Puttenahalli, Bengaluru-560078, Karnataka, India have changed my name to Najmuddin Nalwala.

GALLERIA

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TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*/10** DAYS
Jan: 26, 26*, 26** 27** Feb: 1, 2*, 2**, 6, 8, 9* 11, 16, 16*, 21, 22** 23* 26
KERALA SPECIAL/COASTAL KARNATAKA 7/4* DAYS
Jan: 26, Feb: 2, 9, 16, 16*, 24 Mar: 2, 9,16, 23
SHIRDI NASIK/PANCH JYOTHIRLINGA* 7/6* DAYS
Feb: 1*, 3, 8*, 10, 11, 15, 15*, 17, 23*, 24
ANDHRA PRADESH/HYDERABAD* 10/6* DAYS
Feb: 1, 11, 16*, 21, 23* March: 2, 9*, 12, 16*, 22, 23* Apr: 2, 12, 22
SOUTH INDIA 11 DAYS EX: HUBLI Jan: 26, Feb: 6, 17, Mar: 1
SOUTH INDIA 7/10* DAYS EX: Mangalore Jan: 27* Feb: 3, 10, 17, 24

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HEALTH TIP: Study finds anaemia — commonly associated with iron deficiency — mostly linked to other causes, such as low vitamin B12 and air pollution

As Vitamin B12 is primarily found in meat, fish, dairy and eggs, vegetarians and vegans should consider taking a supplement

'SHOULD I LET MY KID PLAY ROBLOX?'

New safety features reduce risks – but more are needed

Roblox isn't just another video game – it's a massive virtual universe where nearly 90 million people from around the world create, play and socialise.

This includes some 34 million children under 13 who spend an average of 2.6 hours daily on the platform, making Roblox one of the most influential digital platforms for kids and teenagers.

The attraction for young people is the millions of virtual experiences they can have – from raising and dressing up virtual pets, to playing an online game of hide and seek using GPS. Kids can even develop their own games for others to play.

But the joys of the platform come with risks – especially for children. These risks range from cyberbullying to sexual exploitation, to grooming by pedophiles and violent extremists.

Roblox recently introduced a range of new safety features to reduce the risk of harm to children, following consultations with a number of experts (including myself).

Even with these new safety features, however, many parents might still be wondering: "Should I let my kid play Roblox?"

What are the new safety features?

The new features centre on limiting who kids can communicate with on Roblox, the content they play with, and the control parents have on what their kids do on Roblox.

Parents now have more fine-grained controls they can use to manage the type of content, advertisements, friend lists and communication their children have access to. They can also set daily screen-time limits for their children.

Roblox has also changed the ratings of the experiences from age-based ratings to maturity-based ratings (much like the ratings you might see for movies).

The labels are voluntary. But experiences published without one will only be accessible to users 13 and over. This removes the one-size-fits-all idea about kids. Parents know all kids are different – what one 13-year-old is ready for is different to what another 13-year-old is ready for.

Under 13s are no longer allowed to speak to other users outside of mini-games and experiences.

These are all positive steps.

The elephant in the room

To access this new suite of parent controls, parents first need to create a Roblox account, and then link it to their child's account. To do this parents need to add their ID or credit card details. This is a risk for parents.

Our data is being commodified at a rapid rate and scams are rampant, making it difficult for platforms such as Roblox to guarantee the safety of personal information.

What often goes under the radar about Roblox is ongoing messages to spend money. Buy accessories to wear on your avatar while you play, in-game upgrades to make gameplay more fun, accessories for your virtual pets – the list goes on. This reinforces the idea that you need to spend money to have more fun.

The elephant in the room is that the changes made to keep kids safe are housed within parental controls. This requires parents to be very hands on – and digital skills, time, work, busy family life are all barriers to this.

Safety features musn't just revolve around parents.

Enhanced safety measures could include more defined segregation of experiences, similar to having separate playgrounds for primary school, junior high school and older users, allowing parents greater confidence in age-appropriate content.

A subscription-based model could also replace the current system, potentially reducing the constant pressure on children to spend money.

Implementing youth-led safety initiatives, where older children mentor peers and younger players about online safety, could prove more effective than traditional parent-led guidance. Children often respond better to peers who understand their digital experiences firsthand.

The bottom line?

The new safety features are a step in the right direction. They won't eliminate inappropriate content and communication risks. But they should help reduce children's exposure to concerning content and provide parents with better tools to manage their children's online experience.

Would I let my child use Roblox? Yes – but not in a "set and forget" way. Keeping kids safe on the platform requires constant communication about what they see and do on it. Realistically, we can't let our kids play in these huge virtual spaces without this. We have our own parental control – talking to our child – which is powerful as well.

(By Joanne Orlando, Western Sydney University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Blood pressure management for 3 years could reduce risk of cognitive decline: Study

Aggressively managing blood pressure for over three years could provide sustained benefits in preventing cognitive decline, a new study has found.

Published in the journal Neurology, the results showed that intensive blood pressure control for three and a half years continues to significantly reduce risk of mild cognitive impairment or dementia long after treatment is stopped in adults with hypertension and high cardiovascular risk.

Researchers at Wake Forest University, US, looked at 9,361 participants aged 50 years and older from the US and Puerto Rico. Over a typical follow-up period of seven years, cognitive tests were conducted both in-person and via telephone.

The participants were then classified as having no cognitive impairment, mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or probable dementia.

"We found that the intensive treatment group had a sustained lower incidence of developing cognitive impairment compared to those in the standard treatment group," corresponding author David M. Reboussin, a professor of biostatistics and data science at Wake Forest University's School of Medicine, said.

Previous studies have found that people with hypertension are at an increased risk of cognitive decline and therefore, controlling blood pressure could a strategy to prevent the neurological condition.

"Our study shows that intensive blood pressure control is an important strategy in the prevention of cognitive impairment, a major cause of loss of independence in older adults," author Jeff Williamson, a professor of gerontology and geriatric medicine at Wake Forest University's School of Medicine, said.

"Lowering your blood pressure to more aggressive targets can improve the quality of life and extend active life for individuals with hypertension," Williamson said.

"Among ambulatory adults with hypertension and high cardiovascular risk, intensive treatment vs standard treatment of (systolic blood pressure) for 3.3 years resulted in a lower risk of MCI and cognitive impairment including MCI or probable dementia, but not for probable dementia alone," the authors wrote. —PTI

All you need to know about...

6 fashion basics

Asymmetric Tank Tops
Move over basic tank tops and replace them with the new asymmetric tank tops which are super chic. These one shoulder tops are all the rage and are easily compatible with any kind of bottoms, be it skirts, jeans or even shorts.

Short-Sleeved Cardigans
Short-sleeved cardigans are perfect for your everyday look and are the frontrunners for making a strong style statement.

Split Hem Leggings
Out with the old basic black leggings and in with the new split hem leggings! They are known as the Birkin of all leggings and are the hottest trend rn! It gives a classy and chic look and is the perfect match with any kinds of tops or even blazers.

White Jeans
The debate on whether white jeans should be worn or not is now over! They are the go-to jeans option today. Style them with colourful crop tops or neutral hoodies to stand out.

Slouched Blazers
Slouchy blazers are at the top and are now being opted as alternatives to other blouses and jacket styles. It is a classic trend that can never go wrong. You can style it in innumerable ways which will enhance your entire attire.

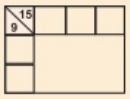
Denim Midi Skirts
Denim midi skirts are a truly transitional piece that you can add to your list. They are versatile, stylish and as flattering as your comfy jeans as they highlight the shape of your body in all the right ways. The length of this skirt can also make you look taller. Added benefits!

—Femina

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

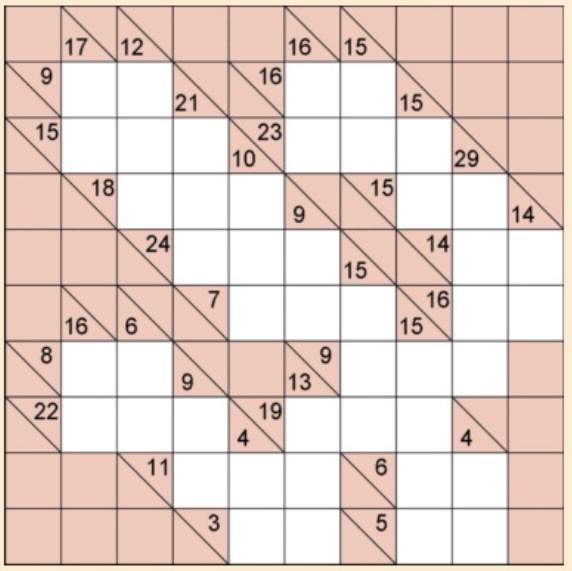
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

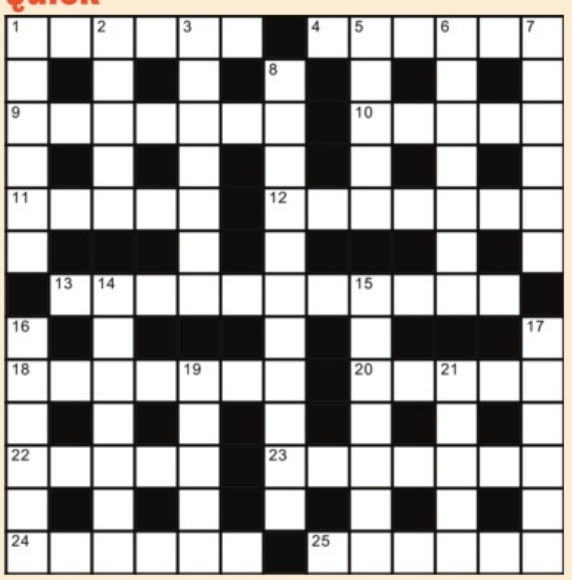


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Extol the virtues of (6)
4 A procedure or system (6)
9 Move along clumsily (7)
10 Mrs Khote of Bollywood (5)
11 Exclude or disallow (5)
12 Of humble birth (7)
13 Orson Welles' classic (7,4)
18 Talking volubly (7)
20 Clamour or racket (5)
22 La ____: Milan opera house (5)
23 Come in again? (2-5)
24 Asterix's best friend (6)
25 Private rules for a town (2-4)

DOWN

1 Buddhist temple (6)
2 Extemporize (2-3)
3 Japanese warrior (7)
5 Bestow upon (5)
6 Barbed whale-killer (7)
7 Sewers (6)
8 C in our IPL team RCB (11)
14 Properly positioned (2,5)
15 35th president of the U.S (7)
16 Rapidly (6)
17 Supplies new weapons (6)
19 Modern day Mesopotamian (5)
21 A prefix meaning "within" (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS G

FQFHU AYZHMPZWVF ZAP MT Z TPFGGMEX TPSEF PSDZHK YFZQFE.

Linemaro

Excuse me, can you empty your pocket? I believe you have stolen my heart

Mindchow

Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but religiously follows the new

Joke of the day

What do cannibals eat to freshen their breath? Men toes

Loop

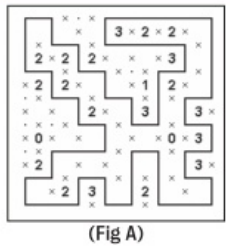
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

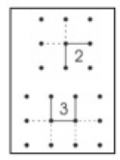
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

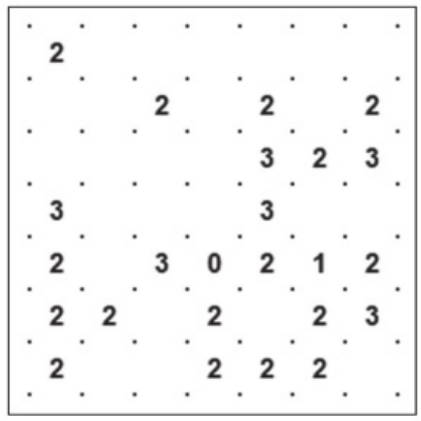
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



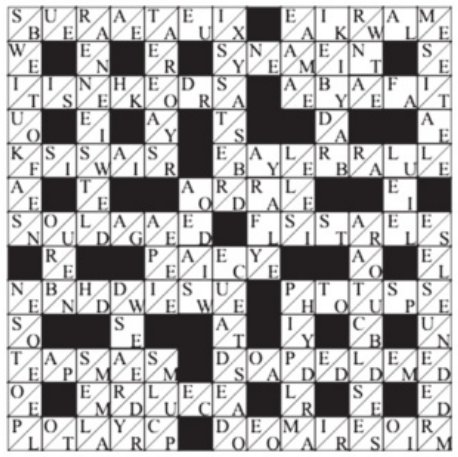
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



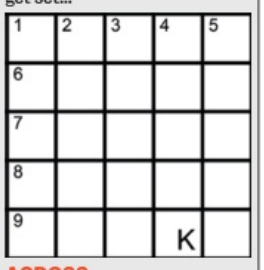
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

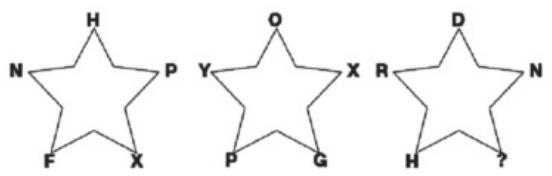
1 Pawls; 6 Your L; 7 A err I; 8 Ceils; 9 Shuck

DOWN

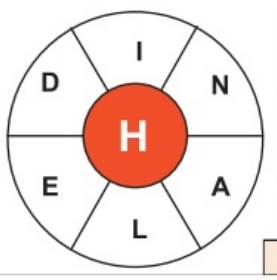
1 S Hals; 2 Oil up; 3 Curia; 4 K crew; 5 Slyer

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last star?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

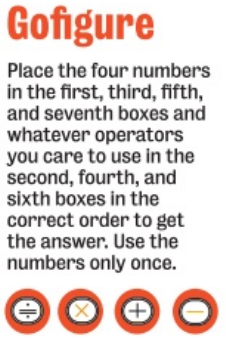
SudokuChallenge

	7	8				3	1	
				3				
	5		6		1		4	
1	3			7			2	6
		7				4		
9	2			5			3	1
	4		3		7		8	
				2				
	8	6				2	9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 22

1 7 7 7

Medium = 8

8 7 4 3

Hard = 13

1 8 9 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Light is higher. 2. Top of desk is wider. 3. Back of chair is higher. 4. File cabinet is not as wide. 5. Eyebrow is lower. 6. Man is thinner.

Riddler

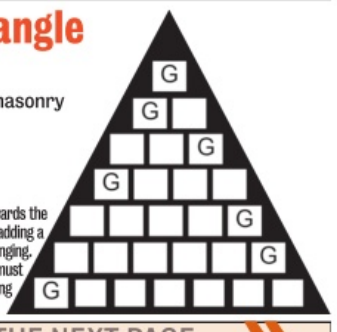
Five veterans were sitting around a bar swapping war stories. From the information provided, determine each veteran's branch of service, the year each was born, and each person's current career.

1. The teacher was born in 1971. 2. The architect was born the year before Art Smith. 3. Susan Wilson, who served in the Coast Guard, is a year younger than the veteran who is now a nurse. 4. The Navy veteran, who wasn't born in 1970, isn't Mary Jones who now practices law. 5. The Army vet, who has published several books about the war, is neither Bill Johnson nor the oldest of the group. 6. The former Marine, who was born in 1969, isn't Art Smith or Mary Jones.

Alpha triangle

1 7th letter
2 Depart
3 Wooden block in masonry
4 Cap's partner
5 Erroneous
6 Aquatic sport
7 Developing

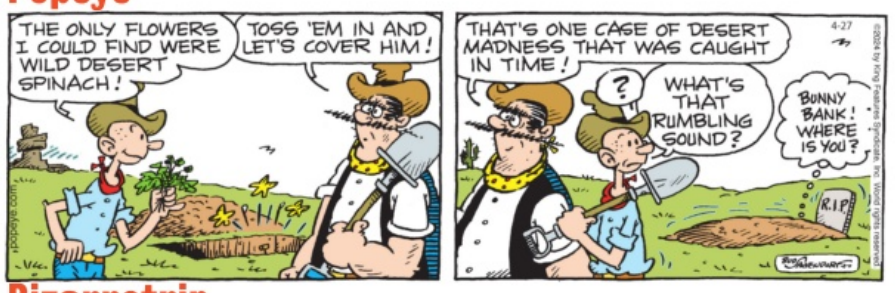
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.



DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


THE ONLY FLOWERS I COULD FIND WERE WILD DESERT SPINACH!
TOSS 'EM IN AND LET'S COVER HIM!
THAT'S ONE CAGE OF DESERT MADNESS THAT WAS CAUGHT IN TIME!
WHAT'S THAT RUMBLING SOUND?
BUNNY BANK! WHERE IS YOU?
R.I.P.

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 10-18-24
I'm worried about my dad. He thinks I'm a marionette with a talking cricket on my shoulder.
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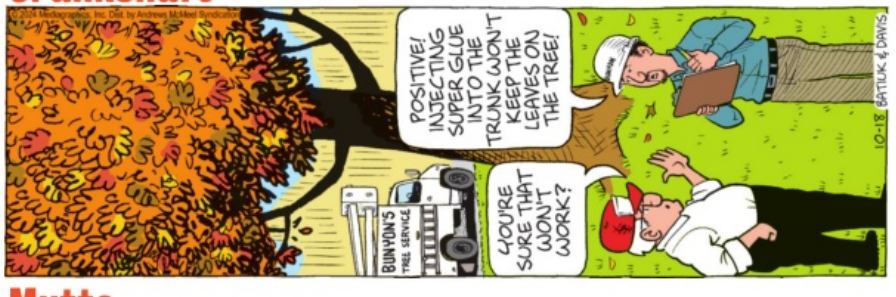
Diamond Lil

WHAT ARE YOU GOING AS FOR HALLOWEEN?
I'M GOING AS A WHIZBANG
WHAT'LL YOU BE WEARING?
A URINAL AND A FIRECRACKER
©2024 creators.com 10/18
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

COME PLAY WITH US, HEART.
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
HEY, KID, HOW DO I GET OUTTA HERE?
OW!! HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE ROLLING!
VROOM
OWW!! NOW MY NIGHTMARE PAINS ARE REAL?!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


POSITIVE! INJECTING SUPER GLUE INTO THE TRUNK WON'T KEEP THE LEAVES ON THE TREE!
YOU'RE SURE THAT WON'T WORK?
BUNYON'S TREE SERVICE
10-18 BATTLIK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel sluggish and could experience some health issues. It is advised to postpone any business investments, as starting new ventures today may result in losses. Your expected gains might turn into losses, so it is best to hold off on making any financial decisions for now.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which will give you the ability to make quick and confident decisions at work. New business opportunities are likely to arise, boosting your confidence. You may also initiate some new innovations with your partner, which will help grow your business in the future.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
With the moon's blessings today, you're likely to perform well at work and could expect promotions or a transfer that brings gains. There is also the possibility of changing your current job. Your relationship with your boss will improve. Chronic health issues in your family are likely to be resolved, bringing happiness to your home.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
The moon blesses you today, giving you confidence and clarity in decision-making. You'll feel decisive and may seize opportunities without hesitation. You might also spend money on family and friends. Lovebirds will enjoy their happy moments together. Job seekers may find a suitable position with the help of friends.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel a bit down and lack the enjoyment you expect. Arrogance might affect your professional and personal life. Internally, you may struggle with a lack of confidence, which could prevent you from being creative at work. It is important to address these feelings of self-doubt.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are advised to have control over your temper and straightforwardness, as bluntness could negatively impact those around you. You might spend money on things that are not essential. Your mind will work quickly, but it is crucial to make any important decisions with patience and caution.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may find yourself making quick decisions today that benefit your daily life. With the help of colleagues, you will likely take on difficult decisions and find success. Any property-related disputes with siblings could be resolved. Short trips may also be on the horizon.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are advised to control your tendency to speak too bluntly, as this may affect those around you. You might end up spending your hard-earned money on unnecessary things, so be careful. Your mind will be working fast, but make sure to approach any major decisions with patience and careful thought.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may not feel well today, and previous health issues might resurface, causing some distress. Impatience may lead you to make wrong decisions, so it is important to think twice before acting. You are also advised to avoid spending money on frivolous purchases that could deplete your finances.

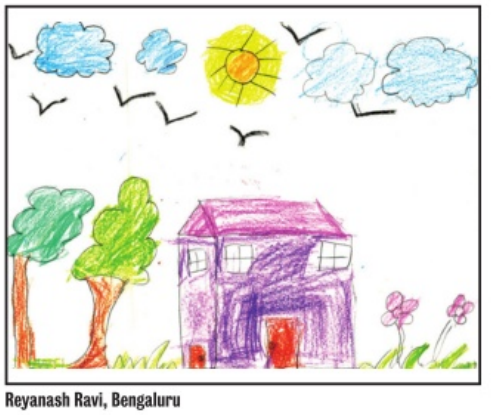
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you will experience peace of mind. Your earnings are likely to boost your financial health. You may consider investing capital into your business, which will increase liquidity. You will enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, enhancing harmony in family life. Singles may find a suitable match. Lovebirds may decide to marry. Students will be blessed with good karma.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You'll feel happy today as any past losses turn into profits now. Your work will be appreciated by your seniors, and there could be changes in your position or responsibilities, possibly leading to a promotion. Your opponents and hidden enemies will be under control. Singles and couples may make important decisions regarding marriage with support from family or friends.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
The moon's blessings today will make you feel content and bring relief from past challenges. Your hard work will begin to pay off, and with the help of your subordinates, you can resume any delayed projects. There are gains in your business, which will help improve your financial situation.

KIDZONE

Sanjana, Bengaluru



Reyanash Ravi, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
1. Mary Jones, 1968, Air Force, Lawyer
2. John Brown, 1972, Army, Writer
3. Art Smith, 1971, Navy, Teacher
4. Susan Wilson, 1970, Coast Guard, Architect
5. Bill Johnson, 1969, Marines, Nurse

= 9 - (1/2) + 9 - (1/2) × 9
= 3 + (3 × 9)
= 3 + 27 = 30

RIDDLER
handle, hail, hailed, hale, hand, head, heal, held, hide, hind, hinhaled, INHALED

BULL'S EYE

H	U	C	K	S
S	L	I	C	E
A	I	R	E	R
L	O	U	R	Y
S	P	A	W	L

FAST FIVE

STRIKE OUT

B	U	R	E	A	U	X	A	K	R	A	M			
E		E		Y	E	M	E	N		E				
T	I	N	K	E	R	S		A	B	A	F	T		
O		E		A		T		A		A		A		
K	I	W	I	S		E	Y	E	B	A	L	L		
O		E	D	U	C	E		R		E		E		
P	O	L	Y	P		D	E	A	R	S	I	R		

QUICK

O	B	E	L	I	X		M	E	T	H	O	D		
T		C		O		S		D		R		M		
E	L		R		E		N		N		A			
R	A	P	P	I	N	G		N	O	I	S	E		
P		N				E					R			
C	I	T	I	Z	E	N	K	A	N	E				
A			L		O		S							
D	E	B	A	R		L	O	W	B	O	R	N		
O		I		U		A		O		P		I		
G	A	L	U	M	P	H		D	U	R	G	A		
A		D		A		C		N		A		R		
B	U	R	E	A	U		A	K	R	A	M			

SUDOKU

6	7	8	5	9	4	3	1	2
4	9	1	7	3	2	5	6	8
3	5	2	6	8	1	9	4	7
1	3	5	4	7	9	8	2	6
8	6	7	2	1	3	4	5	9
5	1	3	9	2	8	6	7	4
2	4	9	3	6	7	1	8	5
9	2	4	8	5	6	7	3	1
7	8	6	1	4	5	9	2	3

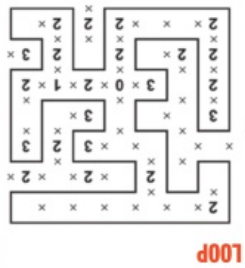
MENSA PUZZLE
X. Starting with the top letter in each star, and moving clockwise around the others, letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 8 for the left hand star, 9 for the central star, and 10 for the right hand star.

QUOTE UNCODE
Every charitable act is a stepping stone toward Heaven.

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, Go, Nog, Gown, Wrong, Rowing, Growing.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 7 + 7 + 1 = 22
Medium
7 - 8 + 3 x 4 = 8
Hard
8 - 4 + 9 x 1 = 13

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # Ryan Gosling in Star Warsverse
Oscar-nominated actor Ryan Gosling is reportedly in negotiations to star in a new Star Wars feature film, directed by Shawn Levy

Not easy to make a comeback

Sagarika Ghatge talks about difficulty in landing a film after long hiatus

Actress Sagarika Ghatge, who is making a comeback after eight years with the film "Lalaat", says it has not been easy to just walk in and get a film.

Talking about why she decided on making a comeback amidst chatter about her plans to have a baby, Sagarika told IANS: "There's no straightforward answer to this. Of course, there are plenty of opportunities with the variety of films and series being made today, and it's exciting to see horizons expanding—not just for actors but for audiences too."

"However, it hasn't been easy to just walk in and land a film." "For someone like me, who took a break, getting back to work wasn't simple. But I'm grateful to have a film now that will showcase my work, and I hope it encourages people, especially those who assumed I didn't want to work, to reach out in the future," said the actress, who made her Bollywood debut in 2007 with the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer "Chak De! India." The actress said that the script was the key reason she chose this film, along with the opportunity to step into a character who is both "naive and incredibly strong, with so much bravery and depth."

"It was a truly fulfilling experience to portray a character with such rich layering. The physical transformation was something I was both excited and nervous about, but it gave me an immense sense of fulfillment after every single day on set," said Sagarika.

She shared that "Lalat" was shot entirely in Rajasthan, in a small village. "Every day, we had to drive at least two hours from the nearest town to reach the location, which added to the experience. I had the privilege of working with incredible actors." —IANS

Work goes on

Actress Rashmika Mandanna, whose 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' emerged as a huge box-office success, is making the most of this phase of her career. The actress is not slowing down despite a recent injury.

As she gears up for her next film, 'Chhaava', she was spotted at the Mumbai airport sitting on a wheelchair. Rashmika arrived in the city for the trailer launch of 'Chhaava' on Wednesday. Although she suffered an injury, she didn't let that affect her work commitments and made it to the event. The actress portrays the role of Maharani Yesubai in 'Chhaava'.

'Chhaava', directed by Laxman Utekar, is based upon the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of Indian warrior-king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The film stars Rashmika in the role of Yeshubai Bhosle, wife of Sambhaji Maharaj with Akshaye Khanna, Ashutosh Rana and Divya Dutta in key roles. —IANS

Post about not posting

Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor has finally shared the reason as to why she is not posting much on social media. Shraddha took to her Instagram stories section, where she posted a picture of herself studying. She is seen sitting on a table and reading a book.

"Isiliye post kam kar rahi hoon... (This is why I am posting less)," she wrote as the caption, without revealing what she is reading.

On January 21, Shraddha re-shared a picture posted by her brother Siddhanth Kapoor on her Instagram story. The photograph seemed to be from a wedding. For the caption, the actress made a reference from the film 'Andaz Apna Apna,' where their father Shakti Kapoor played the role of the funny villain Crime Master Gogo.

She wrote: "Gogo ke bacche dekho kitne acche." Meanwhile, 2024 has been an incredible year for Shraddha, as 'Stree 2' raced ahead of the Shah Rukh Khanstarrer 'Jawan' to become a big hit. The actress will now star in the next installment of the 'Dhoom' franchise with Ranbir Kapoor, with whom she worked in 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar'. —ETimes

Tillotama's film in Berlinale

Actor Tillotama Shome's "Baksho Bondi" will have its world premiere at the 75th Berlin International Film Festival.

The film by first-time filmmakers Tanushree Das and Saumyananda Sahi will be screened as part of the Perspectives section, a new competitive strand aimed at providing a platform to the "exceptional emerging filmmakers from around the world".

The competition, which takes the place of the former Encounters section, comprises 14 debut feature films, competing for the Best First Feature Award at the film gala.

Titled "Shadowbox" in English, the movie is a co-production between India, France, the US and Spain.

In the movie, Shome stars as Maya who discovers that her husband – an ex-soldier who is suffering from PTSD - is the prime suspect in a murder investigation. She and her teenage son are forced to go to extremes to keep the family together, according to the official synopsis shared by the festival organisers.

"Baksho Bondi" also stars Chandan Bisht, Sayan Karmakar and Suman Saha in pivotal roles.

Filmmaker Vikramaditya Motwane, who serves as an executive producer on the movie along with Jim Sarbh and Nikkhil Advani, shared the news of the film's premiere at Berlinale on Instagram. —PTI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

New concept

Nimagondu Sihi Suddi is said to be a different movie with a unique story revolving around a man's pregnancy. The motion poster of the movie was launched on Sankranti. The movie is scheduled for release next month.

Raghu Bhat debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie apart from playing the lead. Kavya Shetty is paired opposite Bhat. "Nimagondu Sihi Suddi is a different attempt. I am proud of its content. I gave sweet news (Sihi Suddi) by unveiling the movie's motion poster. I will be hearing more good and sweet news in the near future," said Bhat, who has also written the script, screenplay, and dialogues for the movie.

Bhat said that he plays Arjun. "How Arjun becomes pregnant is the crux of the story. The movie is entirely entertaining," he said, adding that he has been trying to follow Tamil actor Vikram Surya by playing a variety of characters in movies. Harish Gowda debuts as a producer with this movie.

Different tagline

The upcoming Kannada movie Kadumale has a different tagline – Brain Scamming. The movie that highlights the conflict between reality and illusion is scheduled to arrive in theaters on January 31 through KRG Studios. The movie is bankrolled by Cosmos Movies and directed by Samartha. It has an ensemble cast including Harshan, Sangeetha, and Gilli Manju.

"The movie revolves around the conflict between reality and illusion in a dense forest. I am very happy to announce that KRG Studios took up the distribution rights of this movie after watching its trailer. We selected a good script for this movie. Nature can inspire many questions. This movie is one of such questions. There are seven continents, seven seas, seven weeks and seven swaras. We made this movie based on this concept. The conflict between reality and illusion is the brain scamming," said Samartha.

Harshan aka Artha debuts as a hero in Sandalwood with this movie.